



September 16, 2020

## Let's Bike Ride for the Census and for Social Justice!

To bring attention to social justice and encourage census participation, our office has organized a free community bike ride scheduled for the morning of Sunday, September 27, 2020 at 9 a.m. at Columbus Park, 500 S. Central Avenue, Chicago. Participating elected officials include: Congressman Danny K. Davis, state Senate President Don Harmon, state Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, state Sen. Patricia Van Pelt, state Rep. Camille Lilly, state Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch, state Rep. Jawaharial Williams, state Rep. Lakesia Collins, Cook County Board Commissioner Brandon Johnson, Cook County Board Commissioner Dennis Deer, MWRD Commissioner Barbara McGowan, Ald. Chris Taliaferro, Ald. Jason Ervin, and Oak Park Village Clerk Vicki Scaman.

Chicago is lagging other large cities in census response rates, with only about 55% of residents recorded compared with the national rate of 62%. The response rate among Hispanic and Black people in Chicago is about 51%, compared with 69.6% among whites and 64.1% among Asians, according to Marilyn Sanders, regional director for the U.S. census in Chicago.

Before our 9 a.m. scheduled bike ride, I will host a press conference at 8 a.m. with elected officials, the Illinois Department of Human Services, Lyft, business leaders, and local leaders to push the importance of filling out the census before the September 30 deadline.

Participation in the census is critical to ensuring Illinois and local neighborhoods receive the resources and representation they deserve. It's quick and easy to fill out the Census, and this Bike Ride and Census Day on the West Side of Chicago is an all hands on deck push the hard to count population to be counted.

"The census is an act of civic engagement that can impact and benefit communities for the next ten years. The more responses we get, the more federal money we receive for better hospitals, stronger schools, and safer roads and bridges. The next few weeks are so important and an opportunity to get everyone counted. I want to thank Rep. La Shawn K. Ford for organizing a community bike ride and raising awareness on the importance of the census," said IDHS Secretary Grace Hou.

The bike ride is anticipated to be 13 miles long and will travel through parts of Chicago, Oak Park, Forest Park, and Maywood. Lyft is expected to provide a limited number of free Divvy bikes for use, but residents can bring their own as well. The Chicago Police Department will ride in the event and provide vehicle escort.

Those interested in participating can sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunrise-ride-for-justice-tickets-115687752181>. Attendees are asked to respect social distancing and masking guidelines. For more information, please contact me at [RepFord@LaShawnFord.com](mailto:RepFord@LaShawnFord.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Ford', written in a cursive style.

La Shawn K. Ford  
State Representative-Eighth District